



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

**Southwestern  
Region**

MB-R3-05-3a

September 2011



# **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosemont Copper Project**

## **A Proposed Mining Operation Coronado National Forest Pima County, Arizona**

### **Volume 2**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because of all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Printed on recycled paper – September 2011

# Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosemont Copper Project

## Coronado National Forest Pima County, Arizona

- Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- Cooperating Agencies:** Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Saguaro National Park, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory – Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of the Air Force Davis-Monthan Air Force Base 162nd Fighter Airwing, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Geological Survey, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona State Mine Inspector, Arizona State Parks, Pima County, City of Tucson, Town of Sahuarita
- Responsible Official:** Jim Upchurch, Coronado National Forest, Forest Supervisor  
300 W. Congress St.  
Tucson, AZ 85701
- For Information Contact:** Bev Everson, Interdisciplinary Team Leader  
300 W. Congress St.  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 388-8300

### **Abstract:**

This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) documents the analysis of six alternatives (including a “no action” alternative) that was developed for the Rosemont Copper Project analysis. Alternative 4 – Barrel Alternative is the U.S. Forest Service preferred alternative. The Notice of Intent to prepare this document was published in the Federal Register on March 13, 2008. The public comment period was subsequently extended with a Notice of Intent that was published in the Federal Register on April 29, 2008. The Rosemont Copper Project proposes to mine copper and associated minerals on the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. The proposed activities include an amendment to the 1986 “Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.”

A final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and a record of decision may be released following public review and comment on this DEIS. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 215.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their

participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the FEIS (*City of Angoon v. Hodel* (9th Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Comments on the DEIS should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1503.3).

**Send Comments to:** Rosemont Comments  
P.O. Box 4207  
Logan, UT 84323

**Date Comments Must Be Received:** The 90-day public comment period begins the day after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability for the DEIS in the Federal Register. Comments MUST be received before the close of business on the last day of the comment period.

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

## Documents

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| forest plan     | “Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan,” as amended (U.S. Forest Service 1986) |
| preliminary MPO | preliminary mine plan of operations (WestLand Resources Inc. 2007)                                  |

## Other abbreviations

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| °F                          | degrees Fahrenheit  |
| ΔE                          | color difference index  |
| Augusta Resource            | Augusta Resource Corporation  |
| CD                          | compact disc  |
| CO                          | carbon monoxide   |
| CO <sub>2</sub>             | carbon dioxide  |
| DEIS                        | draft environmental impact statement                                |
| FEIS                        | final environmental impact statement                                |
| Forest Service              | U.S. Forest Service   |
| g                           | the acceleration due to gravity equaling 32 feet per second squared |
| ID team                     | interdisciplinary team  |
| IMPLAN                      | Impact Analysis for Planning  |
| MPO                         | mine plan of operations   |
| N <sub>2</sub> O            | nitrous oxide   |
| NO <sub>2</sub>             | nitrogen dioxide  |
| NO <sub>x</sub>             | nitrogen oxides   |
| O <sub>3</sub>              | ozone   |
| Pb                          | lead  |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub>           | particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter    |
| PM <sub>10</sub>            | particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter     |
| ROD                         | record of decision  |
| Rosemont Copper             | Rosemont Copper Company   |
| Rosemont Copper Project EIS | Rosemont Copper Project Environmental Impact Statement              |
| SO <sub>2</sub>             | sulfur dioxide  |
| TEP                         | Tucson Electric Power   |
| the Coronado                | Coronado National Forest (the agency)                               |
| VOC                         | volatile organic compound   |

